

SN. 10/757,040

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. MLPO:002

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Claim 2 has been canceled and claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now canceled claim 2 and part of claim 3, which as been allowed. Specifically, claim 1 now defines the structure of the first floor panel set forth in claim 3. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from only allowed claims 3-6. New claim 9 has been added to positively define the function of the concavity. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Claims 3-7 and 8/3-8/6 have been allowed. As claim 1 now incorporates part of allowed claim 3, applicants believe that claim 1 (as well as all claims depending therefrom) is also in condition for allowance. As claim 8 has been amended to depend from any one of claims 3-6, claim 8 is its entirety is in condition for allowance.

Art Rejection

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Opel (DE 4020363), and claims 8/1, 8/2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Opel. Applicants submit that these rejections have been rendered moot since claim 1 now further defines the floor panel, as set forth in allowed claim 3. Applicants submit that Opel would not have disclosed or taught a floor panel structure with the first and second side portions joined together in the manner set forth in claim 1.

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Conclusion

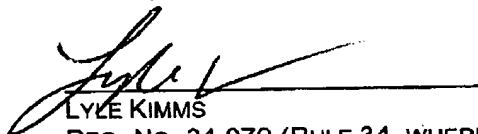
Applicants submit that claims 1 and 2-9 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

11 JULY 2005

DATE



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Conclusion

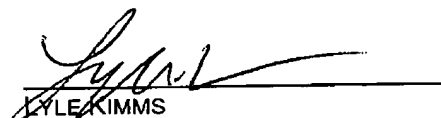
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